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Minutes

Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate

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Faculty Senate Session Agenda
Monday, May 9th, 2016, 2:00 – 3:50 PM
Booth Library Conference Room

Special Guest: Representative Reggie Phillips

- I. Attendance and Welcome 2:00 PM
- Senators = Abebe, Brandt, Corrigan, Gosse, Hung, Ludlow, Oliver, Robertson, Scher, Sterling, Stowell, Young
 - Guests = J. Allison (Ret.), G. Aylesworth (Phil), J. Blitz (Chem/UPI), R. Buck (Ret.), S-K Davis (Lib), C.J. Dudley (Eng), D. Suksang (Eng), S. Elder (Hst), G. Hild (CAH), J. Jarmon (JG-TC), B. Kronenfeld (Geo), B. Lord (AA), J. Mace (Psych), R. Phillips (Illinois House of Representatives), J. Ryan (Music), Y. Williams (Gateway-Minority Affairs)
 - Welcome = Chair Robertson
- II. Approval of Minutes from April 19th, 2016 2:00-2:05 PM
- Motion - Brandt, Seconded - Sterling
 - Further Discussion – Robertson – suggests minor edit – will send proposed revision
 - Vote = 10 in favor, 2 abstentions (Gosse, Scher)
- III. Committee Reports
1. Executive Committee 2:05-3:00 PM
- Robertson - Received communication from Pres. Glassman – new Constitution has been approved
 - Robertson – EIU BOT met last Friday. Provided ‘Good News’ round robin report from previous Faculty Senate meeting.
 - Conversation with Representative Phillips (R) – update from Springfield – not as much as we would hope is happening but the good news is we are going back tomorrow. Social Services bill this week. \$450 million. Update from Rep. Rita Mayfield (D) – president of Black Caucus – we are working together to get funding for higher education. Our actions were against the desire of Madigan or the Republican side. I became a chief co-sponsor. Original bill that included \$40 million was not signed by Governor. Some senators did not support the emergency funding bill. All of the sudden the bill went from \$40 million to \$12 million for EIU. We were close but last minute questions caused the changes. Bill was pulled Thursday night by Rita Mayfield. Provided additional comments on higher education bills and balancing political interests with social services bills. Preferred original proposed 6.5% cuts in higher education at the start of the fiscal year – willing to go as high as 10% but no more. Shares comments on President Perry political activities back in Spring 2015 – only Illinois University president that attended HE Appropriations Committee and committed to a ‘number’ (proposed funding reduction). Shared comments on the lack of cooperation in Springfield. Committed to run this term, but not beyond that. A lot of infighting in Springfield = lack of cooperation. To many politicians it’s all about being re-elected. I am committed to get EIU the necessary funding.
 - Phillips – working on another funding bill to reach 60% funding for 2015-2016. Working with Rita Mayfield on this. Not ideal but better than where we are now. Working with Chapin Rose on another \$25 million for EIU/WIU for current fiscal year from a different fund. Mayfield wants more funding for Chicago State. I feel confident that we can get 60% funding for AY 2015-16. Confident because some senators (Mayfield) are breaking ranks with party leaders (Madigan) to finally act in the best interest/support of higher education institutions. 60% is the short-term goal. That is the situation in Springfield. We are trying to work on multi-year appropriations for higher education, but that would probably result in the same type of request from social services. Social Services has strong representation as well. In summary, what we have done to Higher Education in Illinois is ridiculous. The next 30 days is critical in trying to get at least 60%. There are several other Republican reps that are committed to no more than a 10% cut as well.
 - Hung – the push for the 2nd 30% comes from fund forgiveness from other funds, such as social services? Will this become a barrier for other politicians to support this?
 - Phillips – no – not anticipating that, the first item to tackle next week is \$454 million for social services – the money is already sitting there – but it is only about 1/3 of what is actually needed. At least it is something until we can get them full funding. Rita Mayfield is supporting this – she and I share the same agenda – higher education and social services. I believe the Governor is committed to it as well.

- Hung – referring to the ‘cut no more than 10%’ objective - is the Higher Education Funding committee aware of the decreases of higher education funding during the past 15 years (since 2000) – we have gone from about 33% of EIU budget from the state now down to 17.5% - if the government continues to cut, how can the state government call EIU a state-funded institution when they fund only 15%? EIU is headed for financially ruin if the cuts continue.
- Phillips – I can’t really answer that question – I agree
- Hung – can you take our message back to the committee in Springfield that more cuts would be devastating? We are not an endless coffer. There will be a day of reckoning.
- Phillips – I agree with you - a tax increase is probably needed, but it is attached to getting politicians re-elected. Added more comments about his support for a possible tax increase along with sensible cuts and some reforms. The Illinois ship is ‘sinking’ – we need to ‘right’ the ship through tax revenue and sensible cuts – like worker’s compensation reform. Relief is needed. Costs are getting out of control.
- Phillips – adds more comments on worker’s compensation relief – and how it relates to a possible tax increase. Mentions other strategies related to tax increase, paying bills on time, and doing business in Illinois – possible common sense reforms. Difficult conditions in Springfield to get much done. One step at a time – first step is ~\$450 million for Social Services. I predict that we are going to have a tax increase – our state cannot survive without it. By the end of July the state will be in debt by 10 billion. Not to mention the interest that we are paying – 1% per month – it’s astronomical.
- Scher – seeking clarification on bill passed by Senate last week – it’s status?
- Phillips – it’s dead – It won’t come to the House floor. The Democrats are not willing to bring that bill over. I cannot elaborate on it now – but I can by the end of the week
- Stowell – where are we at with the AY 2016-2017 budget?
- Phillips – I feel confident that if we can get the 2016 budget behind us, it won’t be as difficult to finish the AY16-17 budget.
- Hung – but the governor’s own budget is 3 billion out of balance
- Phillips – I see a difference in the Governor’s stance – but I need to be careful what I say here – I want to make sure we get at least 60% for EIU.
- Hung – so after AY 15-16 budget is done, you think the AY 16-17 budget can get done?
- Phillips – yes, I think it can be accomplished – I think we will come back here in a few months with a solid AY16-17 funding
- Suksang – do politician’s still work for the people in Illinois? – it doesn’t seem that way to me. Shares concerns about the democratic process in Illinois and the US – politicians are working for themselves and their own self-interests, not the people, and citizens are getting hurt. It saddens me. To politicians have hearts? I agree with you – we need to a tax increase so citizens have services.
- Phillips – the governor is willing to consider a tax increase with compromise on his agenda – specifically with worker’s compensation. Comments on politicians – vast majority of Illinois politicians are good people– I don’t want to demonize the whole group or any individuals – we are at a crossroads with tax increases – I represent 125000 people in this region – but please understand that most people that I represent don’t want a tax increase – but I believe Illinois will ultimate need a tax increase. The CSU situation is the catalyst in making this funding issue move forward – to overcome the gridlock. Talks about how party political leaders have corralled their leaders for so long – 10 months! But there is movement now. Provides comments on how I had to apologize for voting in favor of higher ed bills against the wishes of party leaders.
- Suksang – more comments on the democratic process around the world.
- Phillips – discusses the importance of the business and education relationship. You cannot have one without the other. Offered comments on job situations in the state of Illinois. The state is not producing jobs. We need reforms to keep the jobs. Cites the Caterpillar situation. Business leaders want reforms proposed by Rauner.
- Robertson – comments on Illinois being the 2nd largest exporter of high school grads – many students will not return to Illinois – they will accept employment in other states after college graduation - do your colleagues understand this?
- Phillips – comments on Robertson’s comments – comments on lower cost to attend colleges in other states– relates it to business and the bidding process – we need to change perception at EIU and the concept of ‘cost’. Comments on Lake Land College – not suffering/complaining due to cuts and reduced MAP grant funding.
- Comment from Knight (Guest) – Lake Land is suffering – they have made cuts that have hurt – cutting classes, instructors, hours of operations, etc

- Phillips – yes, but the perception is that Lake Land College is open for business.
- Knight – any additional tax bills proposed related to higher education funding? Anything we can do to assist and help in the process?
- Hung – yes, because the fair tax bill was just pulled – best option now off the table – what is going to generate revenue in this state?
- Phillips – probably service tax bills – which is a dead issue with Madigan
- Knight – what about estates/trusts fees?
- Phillips – people are open to reforms and adjustments that will save money - comments on procurement process in Illinois – needs to be revised – cites high expense of curb work close to EIU campus – we need reforms that improve the business climate in the state and then complement that with the 5% income tax
- Hung – 3.75 income tax in Illinois – 3rd lowest in US in states that have state income tax – 5% will move us up only 2 more slots. In that context, Illinois will still be in the lowest 5th
- Young – doesn't Indiana have a 6% income tax rate? Terre Haute and ISU are competing with us
- Phillips – Indiana has a surplus of funding compared to Illinois
- Gosse – comments on 60% funding goal - what does that represent?
- Phillips – 60% of AY 2015 appropriated amount which included a 6.5% cut but I know it's not enough.
- Hung – so based on the 2015 appropriated amount?
- Phillips – yes, but it's not enough, but we are trying to mitigate the damages – I'm doing my best in Springfield.
- Stowell – what about performance-based funding? Is that still being discussed in Springfield? EIU tops the charts across the state with this.
- Phillips – I support that initiative – the Governor wanted to put \$50 million into it.
- Robertson – a real 'fear' is that now we have some funding, nothing else will happen?
- Phillips – nobody in Springfield sees this as the end – there is more to do – but the self-interests of politicians in Springfield are worried about getting re-elected.
- Abebe – you are still a new representative - you are getting to know EIU and Lake Land College – what can we do better that Lake Land College (and other community colleges) are doing well?
- Phillips – I will need to think about that question...– when reviewing the HE Appropriations Committee tapes – I have been telling my colleagues about how efficient EIU is - comments on being more efficient per student, comments on same issue at CSU – not as efficient per student and poor graduation rates.
- Hung – but they are catering to a unique student population, non-traditional students - comments on higher performance productivity statistics, I am weary of rhetoric that pits one campus against another – in long run, uniting higher education in Illinois would be more beneficial rather than campuses fighting each other for limited funding – all campuses are worth protecting.
- Phillips – I like the thought, but it's not the reality. U of I cannibalizes other campuses. I created a bill that requires them to publish their admission standards. It did not even get out of the room. The scales are not even. U of I will get their way. They want their own 5-year funding plan, separate from the other Illinois universities.
- Abebe – they (U of I) make that request every year though.
- Hung – we know from the same report on campus efficiency – commissioned by IBHE – U of I gets twice as many dollars per student as EIU gets. Comments on the gap – obviously parity does not exist but the committee needs to be aware of this. Collectively, the 7 other campuses outnumber U of I. What path can we take to reduce this funding gap?
- Phillips – start working with the other campuses – bring this situation up with them and politicians
- Hung – how well have you been received across the aisle when you have tried to work with politicians on the budget issue that represents other regional campuses?
- Phillips – yes, some are on the HE appropriations committee - we have tried to unify. Don't forget about the influence of junior colleges in this state as well.
- Oliver – as an EIU alum, can you help reassure us that EIU is not going anywhere and no Illinois campus will close? This would be reassuring for us, as well as to parents and graduating high school students.
- Phillips – reassures that no campus is going to close – just a rumor – EIU is going to be here - but some of the damage has been done – we will have to overcome the damage and come back stronger
- Phillips – EIU is a great campus
- Guest – comments about reducing appropriations over the years and the negative impact

- Phillips – suggests that other forms of funding to higher education have actually increased over the years, but that funding has not made it to the classroom. K-12 has not been funded for AY-2016-17
- Allison – any chance that K-12 funding and Higher Education funding initiatives will be split again? Senator Cullerton has mentioned that he will not do that again in the future.
- Phillips – that is the consensus but nothing is guaranteed. Things can change quickly in Springfield.
- Abebe – thank you for coming here today – when considering the role of the Faculty Senate it is best to think of it as an ‘all-you-can-eat-buffet’ with the promise of unlimited food but limited personal capacity” as you can see here today.
- Phillips – thank you for inviting me and you know how you can get a hold of me if you want to talk further on these topics

2. Nominations Committee 3:00-3:10 PM
 - suspended until Fall 2016

3. Elections Committee
 - suspended until Fall 2016

4. Faculty-Student Relations Committee
 - suspended until Fall 2016

5. Faculty-Staff Relations Committee
 - suspended until Fall 2016

6. Awards Committee
 - suspended until Fall 2016

7. Faculty Forum Committee
 - suspended until Fall 2016

8. Budget Transparency Committee
 - suspended until Fall 2016

9. Ad hoc Committee on Extracurricular Athletics
 - suspended until Fall 2016

IV. Communications

1. Faculty Senate Minutes from April 19th, 2016
2. CAA Minutes from April 21st and 28th, 2016
3. Communication from Provost Lord concerning Summer 2017 Date Adjustments
4. Communication from Rebecca Throneburg concerning Dual Enrollment Initiative

V. Provost’s Address: Provost Blair Lord 3:10-3:20 PM

1. Summer 2017 Date Adjustments

- Lord – proposal for Summer 2017 and summers thereafter – comments about the proposed timetable – provides rationale and background information for moving the start of the 8-week session up by 2 weeks – late May, early June rather than mid-June. This proposal specifically relates to education graduates teaching in the public schools. Relates to public schools needing evidence that summer graduates actually have graduated before the new school year begins. Districts have become increasingly unwilling to accept statements from universities – they want proof of actual graduation before hiring.

- Stowell – what is the purpose of this current week we are in now? It’s an empty week – reason for the break?

- Lord – feedback from teachers and students have suggested that the week off (gap week) is needed.

- Hung – asks question about the spring term vs the summer term, and how timing of grades gets posted between the 6-week and the 8-week?

- Lord – responds about some of the hang-ups experienced with Banner system and the grade posting process of the ‘summer term’
- Hung – how many courses are in the 8-week format?
- Lord – less than 1/3 of summer courses but there are a variety of different 8-week course configurations – it’s a ‘flex’ session.
- Scher – adds comments and examples on the type of courses offered during the 8-week session
- Scher – Q – what has to happen in order to submit grades by August 10th?
- Lord – adds comments about the steps of the process that has to be completed to verify graduates with degrees. Typically a 10-day to 2-week period of time to complete steps. School districts are starting earlier each year in Illinois.
- Scher – faculty may also be concerned with the overlap of summer classes between terms
- Lord – we continue to try to strike a balance in this situation but some course overlap may not be avoidable
- Brandt – any financial benefits for not offering classes for two weeks at the end of August?
- Lord – we already restrict courses to 3 buildings during the summer term
- Oliver – question/follow-up about the proposed 3-year degree program - EIU3?
- Stowell – comments about the barriers/obstacles regarding EIU3 proposal – plan was to have 3, 4-week summer courses with no overlap. Experienced some significant push-back, specifically from graduate programs. So we dropped the summer session component. The program does exist and info is on our department website. Every entering student receives information on the program, and I would become their advisor in PSCYH Dep.. Limited participation at this point.
- Lord – it’s a fairly unusual student that is mature enough to find success in a 3-year degree program.
- Stowell – in the plan, students would take 16 credits each semester + summer school – and if they bring in AP and dual credits, they can get through in 3 years.
- Scher – maybe a broader discussion is needed about how to better utilize summer school – my idea to move to a full summer semester is still appealing to me – 3 semesters per year – providing students flexibility. Study abroad and internships can be integrated into the student’s plan. Adds more comments.
- Hung – possibly two large issues with the 3-year model – student financial aid and faculty pay (paid less in summer)
- Scher – many issues would need to be figured out
- Stowell – refers to BYU-Idaho’s 3-year cycle – their advantage is student demand – many students want to attend
- Hung – one benefit of this type of system is for students to do more in the summer – sometimes students switch majors, and thanks to summer school they still are able to complete their degrees in 4 years after switching majors.
- Lord – using summer term in future course planning and scheduling for students would be beneficial. Briefly reviews history of summer teaching at EIU.
- Lord – some good news – as of this morning – summer registration is only down 3.3% from last year.
- Scher – is summer a net gain?
- Lord – definitely in terms of labor costs, and somewhat in terms to contribution to institutional overhead costs.

- Hung – I’ve talked to students who already plan on taking summer courses as part of their education – but often it takes place at the community college back home. We need to make it more attractive for students to stay at EIU and take summer courses – maybe reduce housing/lodging/fees to persuade them?
- Lord – we have looked into that, it’s not directly under my influence. online courses have become more popular that allows students to go home, get a job, and take online courses – online sections = 17%, credit load = 40%
- Scher – community colleges are typically less expensive
- Lord – we should have the advantage over community colleges with upper division course needs
- Scher – update on enrollment data?
- Lord – deposits are down 25% - and we are getting late in the cycle – it has become a ‘crisis of confidence’
- Hung – so stop-gap funding has not helped?
- Lord – we need additional funding to increase confidence in current high school seniors
- Hung - is our graduating senior class larger than our junior class?
- Lord – yes, but pretty soon we will get to a steady-state level – similar size of freshman classes the last few years

VI. Other Business

3:20- PM

1. Conversation concerning CAA Dual Enrollment Initiative

- Lord – provides background on the issue – for a number of years community colleges have used teachers at high schools that have credentials to teach CC courses. New legislation allows senior institutions to participate in this type of partnership. So EIU is analyzing/considering general education categories that most junior colleges don’t offer.
- Hung – what about the consideration of fighting with our own selves with this? Won’t this program undercut what we already do here? Students would pay less initially, and then not have to pay EIU tuition for the course here?
- Lord – yes, it has been considered – it is being viewed as a recruitment strategy
- Hung – the other thought – thinking of my own department – we offer courses with a lab requirement – that would be difficult to take the lab to the high school – most high schools don’t have the basic resources to provide the lab. Also – can we do a ‘summer boot camp’ for high school students interested in this type of course?
- Lord – yes, we could – there would be housing, dining costs. In fact we open up the summer session to attract these types of students
- Scher – comments about Chicago suburbs – could we get those students down to Eastern – take a few classes, stay in the dorms, eat in the cafeteria – help them earn some college credit and a quality experience
- Lord – comments on initiative to try to get Fall admits to start in the summer
- Ludlow – in other states where I have worked K-12 funding would pay for college courses taken by HS students on a college campus
- Lord – comments about community college-high school funding for dual-credit courses
- Hung – on this issue, does the Senate want or need to provide a formal response?

- Robertson – sent to us by CAA as an information item
- Oliver – suggestion – invite CAA to present on this to Faculty Senate during the Fall 2016 semester
- Hung – question – Dagni Bredesen is stepping down as FAC DEV Director. Who is running the New Faculty Orientation program this Fall?
- Lord – correct, Dagni is stepping down. However, the function of Faculty Development is important to maintain on our campus. Not many new faculty this fall. We are looking into how to manage and deliver this important program effectively.
- Hung – some of us here serve on the FAC DEV ADV COMM – this is an important event – it impacts our new faculty – that office needs to have continuity with the staff even with Dagni's resignation.
- Scher – lots of 'interim' tags on administrators across campus – will some become permanent?
- Lord – until more budget clarity is received, probably not until more funding is received
- Hung – what is the situation with our ACFs? Our colleagues are nervous – they don't have a contract
- Lord – about ½ of the Unit Bs have a multi-year contract – if they did not hear about it by March 31st, they have a contract in hand. It's the other ½ of the Unit Bs that are wondering about a renewal contract. Pres Glassman has penned a letter to them providing information and a potential timeframe on the issue.

VII. Adjournment no later than 3:50 PM

VIII. Future Dates:

Tentative Proposed Dates for 2016-2017 Faculty Senate Sessions:

Fall 2016: Aug. 22nd, Sep. 6th & 20th, Oct. 4th & 18th, Nov. 1st & 15th, Dec. 6th

Spring 2017: Jan. 17th & 31st, Feb. 7th & 21st, Mar. 7th & 21st, April 4th & 18th